



CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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January 30, 2019

The Honorable Alex Villanueva
Sheriff, Los Angeles County
211 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sheriff Villanueva:

As recently reported by the media, your reinstatement of a deputy previously discharged from County service for allegations of domestic abuse and stalking has been the subject of serious debate and concern. The deputy's discharge was based on documented evidence and the grounds for termination were upheld by the Civil Service Commission. At a recent Civilian Oversight Commission hearing, you revealed that your actions were based on your own personal doubts about the accuser's credibility and time lapses between the alleged crimes and the report made.

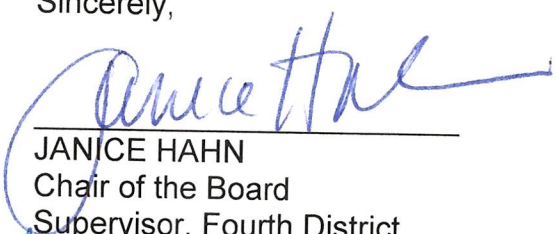
The reinstatement, and the reasoning for it, sends a disturbing message that a crime victim should not be believed based on the timing of the allegations and one person's doubt about his or her credibility. This approach can further discourage victims from coming forward who are already reluctant to report such crimes for a variety of reasons, including shame, self-doubt and fear. Additionally, there are grave concerns over how this particular matter has been handled and the message it sends to law enforcement personnel, as well as victims of domestic violence and the public at large. This action may also hinder your Department's ability to restore and preserve the public trust that is so vital in effective policing.

It is imperative that full and accurate facts drive investigations of criminal matters, as well as employee disciplinary cases, to ensure that they are both pursued with the highest standard of integrity.


The Honorable Alex Villanueva
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We are therefore bringing this matter to your attention and request your reconsideration of this action and/or a response to our concerns.

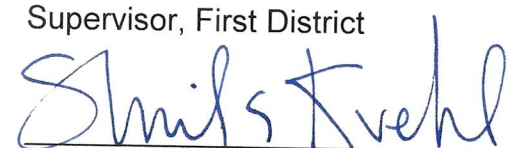
Sincerely,



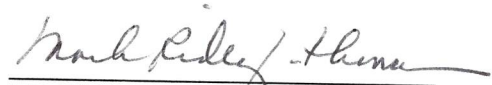
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Supervisor, Fourth District



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